



UNITED STATES SENATE
**REPUBLICAN
POLICY COMMITTEE**

Larry E. Craig, Chairman
Jade West, Staff Director

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Republicans Are The Party of Compassion

How Welfare Reform Helped Stephanie From Mississippi

In 1996, Republicans reformed welfare to encourage work and thereby lifted millions of Americans out of poverty. Even more compelling than the [statistics](#), however, are the stories of the individual Americans whose lives were turned around by Republican welfare reforms.

While attending community college in Fulton, Mississippi, Stephanie Kitchens became a single mom. Rather than drop out of school, Stephanie enrolled in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, allowing her to continue her education. The TANF program helped Stephanie with expenses associated with raising a child and attending school simultaneously. Without TANF assistance, Stephanie would have been unable to work full-time in the community college's work-study program.

Stephanie next attended Mississippi State University, where she would continue to participate in a work-study program on a full-time basis. The TANF program continued to help Stephanie by subsidizing her transportation costs and her daughter's daycare expenses. In 2000, Stephanie received a master's degree in Instructional Technology from Mississippi State. With a post-graduate degree, Stephanie was a very marketable job candidate and found work quickly. The temporary assistance that she received from the TANF program enabled her to complete her education and become self-sufficient. Stephanie – no longer on welfare – is now a technology coordinator for a Mississippi school district.

For 30 years, Democrats fought a losing War on Poverty. Thanks to a Republican Congress, America is finally winning that war.

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Adapted by RPC intern Jared Oren from information
provided by the office of Representative Wicker (R-MS).

[The underlined text indicates hyperlinks in the electronic version of this RPC paper.]